



**MINUTES**  
**CONCURRENT MEETING**  
**WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD**  
**(WCHSASAB) &**  
**SPARKS SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSCAC)**

**Wednesday – May 5, 2021**

**3:00 P.M. – Via Zoom**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78207944707?pwd=ZkqvSHFXeUszMkNlRXNaWHd3R1F1dz09>**

**Meeting ID: 782 0794 4707 Passcode: 600758 Dial (669)900-9128**

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**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 3:05pm by Dr. Larry Weiss.

**2. Roll Call**

**WCHSASAB Present:** Dr. Larry Weiss, Barbara Korosa, James Doyle, Linda Hardie, Rick Sorensen, Deborah Whitehouse, Sarah Deardorff, Donna Clontz

**SSCAC Present:** Andrea Pelto, John Sebastian, David Hall Sr., Kyle Waxman, Barbara Stirling, Rosemary Padgett, Marsy Kupfersmith

**Absent: WCHSASAB:** Jennifer McMenomy, Mark Miranda

**SSCAC:** LaMerne Kozlowski

**WCHSASAB Advisor Present:** Connie McMullen

**Staff Present:** Herbert Kaplan-Deputy District Attorney, Donald Abbott, Steve McBride, Abby Willrich, Sandra Vasquez

**3. \*Public Comment**

None.

**4. \*Member Announcements**

None.

**5. Approval of the Agenda for the Human Services Agency Senior Advisory Board and the Sparks Senior Citizens Advisory Committee concurrent meeting: May 5, 2021 (For Possible Action)**

**WCHSASAB:** Donna Clontz makes a motion to approve, seconded by Linda Hardie. All in favor, motion passes.

**SSCAC:** Andrea Pelto makes a motion to approve, seconded by Barbara Stirling. All in favor, motion passes.

## **6. Presentation and Reports (Non-action items):**

### **6.1 Presentation regarding Nevada Department of Veterans Services programs – Rachel Jelenic, Healthcare Initiative Program Manager**

Rachel states the NDVS vision is to connect veterans and their families to the benefits they have earned. The mission is to honor the legacy of the veterans of Nevada by connecting them to benefits they have earned. They cater to over 240,000 veterans in Nevada. Some of the programs include education, housing, homelessness, and suicide prevention. Separately there is the healthcare service team and there is short term and long term and memory care, including rehabilitation. There are various healthcare programs. There is the homebound program which locates veterans to let them know the programs they may need. There is also a caregiver and social support program. They recently launched the Heros-to-Heros program to connect veterans with other veterans; it helps facilitate connecting veterans during the pandemic.

### **6.2 Washoe County Human Services staff report concerning update and discussion on potential Washoe County issues and activities including housing, transportation, and meal program to seniors – Steve McBride, Washoe County Human Services Agency Division Director**

Steve states it is a big week in Washoe County for senior services. On Monday, facilities were re-opened since March 17; they are open at 50% capacity. Dine in meals have resumed, but they have to go meals as well. They have arranged the dining areas with social distancing. Things look to be ramping up to be 100% open in June. The Daybreak program also opened on Monday. Clients are trickling in and they are happy to let people back in the building. Steve encourages the Board to look at the Older American Month page in the Washoe County Senior Services website. Donald Abbott asked if all centers are open, Steve replied yes. Steve stated only meals and resources are available at the centers. Herb Kaplan states meetings will need an in-person location as of June, a hybrid meeting can be a possibility.

Abby stated that the staff report is just about ready and will be going to the Board of County Commissioner on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **6.3 City of Sparks staff report concerning updates and discussion on City of Sparks issues and activities relating to seniors – Donald Abbott, Sparks City Council** Donald stated they have an upcoming meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. They have Augustin present on a program he is working on. Also, the Sparks Board has chosen their president and vice president for the Board. They talking about how to maybe change things up at the Sparks Senior center since some card games have been using the same room all the time. The Board has also applied for the AARP grant.

### **6.4 Update and discussion on legislation affecting seniors at the Nevada Legislature in the 2021 session – Connie McMullen, WCHSASAB Associate Member**

Connie stated there are some things she has been following. A lot of bills made it through, and a lot also didn't. They are now at the second session, and they just had the economic forum. During the economic forum, they found out there is about \$5 million left over. One of the bills, AB216, is moving along and passed to the second house. Bill AB190, a sick time off bill, is at the second house and has good support. Senate bill 95 has to apply for a waiver and if it passes, it will set up a caregiver money to hire their own person to provide services for them. Senate bill 340 may not pass because of the changes it can create. Senate bill 420 is a bill that did not follow deadlines and is very controversial. Bill AB 35 would limit the age for applying for the benefits. AJR10 is a bill that quickens the minimum wage and if goes through the sessions it will go to the voters and the minimum wage would be \$12. AB351 is a bill about end-of-life care and is trying to make it through, it would let people get a prescription to end their life. AB344 is long overdue and allow people to transfer from the hospital to home. It has crossed the first house of the senate.

- 6.5** Report and update on advisory board and committee members' shared issues and goals regarding Housing, Advocacy, Communication, Data Planning, Transportation, Food, Social and Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteers, Financing and Social and Health Services

Attachment: [5-05-21 Joint Goals Wrksht.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)

Connie reports that ADSD increased their homemaker program to get people off the waitlist. Deborah Whitehouse would like to be added to the Grant section. Donna stated the handout is so that the committees can use it to focus on what they are interested in and report on it; she encourages the Sparks Board to look at it for their next meeting.

- 6.6** Discussion and update regarding event of Stuff-A-Bus for Seniors 2021 where the community donates items to seniors
- Larry stated donated items are needed and the event will be from 2pm-7pm at Sam's Club on May 21. Abby suggested items that can be donated are cleaning supplies, pots, pans, sheet sets, towels, gift cards, clothing, microwaves, and vacuums. Rosemary Padgett asked how this information is released. Chris Ciarlo stated they did a news release about it and it highlighted seniors in the community. The Stuff-A-Bus was included in the news release and RTC will provide the bus. Also, the virtual channel is up and Older American Month page is up too. These are being promoted on social media.

## **7. General Business:**

- a. Discussion, update, and possible recommendations regarding proposed events for Older Americans Month 2021 program (For Possible Action)**

Attachment: [5-05-21 Older Americans Month List of Events 2021.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)

Donna suggested people check out the website. On most days there is something going on and there is a lot of learning materials and entertainment.

- b. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding advocacy for senior issues with policymakers, including identifying issues and setting meeting dates for future advocacy training and workshops (For Possible Action)**

Donna urges people to look at the bills Connie listed, anyone can go to the website and give their opinion. Deborah states that with Connie and Barry Gold's previous information, it is easy to go to the website and comment directly to the legislator. Connie will send the list to Sandra to send out. Donna stated she is doing Zoom for Older American Month and she has all the information for how to be an advocate for seniors.

c. **Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age-friendly communities throughout Washoe County, Reno and Sparks and how local government can make the community more age-friendly/senior-friendly (For Possible Action)**

Donna stated this has mainly to do with affordable housing and transportation. To make age-friendly means to make the community better for everyone. The Friendly Caller project is a good example of it.

d. **Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation on types of senior social recreation activities that may resume in 2021 at Washoe County operated facilities, including revising and considering a community survey (For Possible Action)**

**Attachment:** [5-05-21 Sr Activity Survey.pdf \(washoecounty.us\)](#)

Abby stated the survey developed by the Board was mainly for Reno and Sparks centers and were handed out this week. Abby stated they are looking at changes at how things are done and meeting the people's needs, this may include assessing events every 6 months. Sarah stated that she handed them out and only received about 28 back. Most of the interest was for art classes, tech café, and entertainment. Donna stated she will give copies to Evelyn Mount and will look into how to give the Sparks Board copies to hand out.

**8. Requests for future agenda items**

Possible National Mental Health presentation  
Update on legislative issues

**9. \*Public Comment –**

Ethan Hovest introduces himself and states he would like to apply for an Alternate seat in the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board.

**10. Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

WCHSASAB: Deborah Whitehouse makes a motion to approve, seconded by Linda Hardie. All in favor, motion passes.

SSCAC: Marsy Kupfersmith makes a motion to approve, seconded by Andrea Pelto. All in favor, motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 4:24pm.